

## Daily Devotional, August 14, 2020

### “He First Loved Us”, (1 John 4:19, NKJV)

*“We love Him because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)*

The Apostle John is sometimes known as the Apostle of Love. John talks much on the theme of love in his gospel and letters. In our text, he affirms the theological truth that love originates with God Himself. Elsewhere, we can find verses that tell us how this truth is clearly evident by the actions of God. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16). There is nothing spiritually lovable about sinners, yet the Lord loves us anyways. *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8). We ought to take God’s love personally. The Apostle John called himself *“one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved”* (John 13:23). Can you call yourself *“one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved?”*

Consider on a human level how this can be applied and outworked. Let us follow the logic from lesser to greater. A loving parent loves his or her child from the moment of conception, even though the baby has done nothing to earn that love. This is unconditional, natural, parental love. Then as the child gets older and goes into adulthood, though he or she may be disobedient and stray at times, the love remains. The loving parent is even willing to die for that child. Because the child recognizes the selfless love of the parent, the love is reciprocated automatically, although this may not always be as evident and obvious as we would like. We take this parental love very personally. If God is your spiritual Father, then you must know that the Bible presents Him as a perfect Father, divine and not human, always good and never evil. Therefore, *“We love Him because He first loved us.”*

Christian friend, now I ask you if you will do a few things. Will you take the initiative to love others, even strangers, even those who you count and who count you an enemy? Will you pay the love forward that God has shown you? *“We love Him because He first loved us.”* Will you show your love for the Lord by having a relationship with Him through prayer, and by living for Jesus? And will you also take the next step to *“love your neighbor as yourself?”* (Mark 12:31).